# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024

The Hague Humanity Hub

The Hague Humanity Hub is not for profit foundation based in The Hague, the international city of peace and justice and home to hundreds of organisations working towards a better word.

We offer a vibrant platform for changemakers to collaborate towards a peaceful and just world. Building bridges across sectors, themes and disciplines, we connect people from hundreds of organisations to share insights, form alliances, and innovate for greater impact. Our community collaboration space in The Hague embodies our vision of an open, peaceful society, serving as a physical hub for meaningful collaboration.


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# 1 MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

This document marks an important milestone for us: our very first annual report in this format. In these pages, we highlight what we have achieved over the past year and revisit some of the most meaningful moments from the first seven years of building and growing The Hague Humanity Hub together.

2024 was a year of remarkable energy and growth at the Hub. We saw the peace and justice community come together more than ever before, with record levels of engagement and activity since our founding in 2018. We also refined the way we work, creating new opportunities for cross-sectoral connection and collaboration, so that changemakers can more easily share ideas, build partnerships, and take collective action for a better world. In the increasingly challenging context of geopolitical shifts, policy changes and budget cuts that have a direct impact on the ecosystem for peace and justice, we stand behind our mission to empower changemakers to connect and collaborate to create a more peaceful and just world.

In 2024 we organised our programmes and activities under two main themes: impact and strengthening. In terms of impact, we established a climate justice community and supported the development of other collective action initiatives. At the same time, we continued to strengthen the community through initiatives that foster connection, knowledge sharing, access to talent, digitalisation and access to funding. Our professional programming reached 3600 participants from more than 480 organisations, across 80 events organised and hosted with 71 partner organisations.

Under the Just Peace brand, our public engagement activities attracted over 30,000 online visitors and more than 10,000 event participants. Highlights include the Just Peace Open Day, eight Just Peace Movie Nights, eight thematic online campaigns and a total of 220 contributor events. The Hub membership grew to 185 organisations with 429 members, all benefiting from our support in visibility, connection and collaboration. The Hub campus in the centre of The Hague was bustling with activities, including members regularly meeting in the cafe, 180 peace and justice related events, and more than 60 organisations using the Hub as their office.

We also strengthened our organisational capabilities with the implementation of a new booking system, the launch of an employee training programme and development of a comprehensive ecosystem database. In 2025 we are expanding our reach and deepening engagement through an adapted programming structure designed to strengthen resilience. Our focus is on helping the community navigate shifts in the increasingly challenging context of working towards peace and justice. Our public engagement activities are also growing, highlighted by the organisation of a special Just Peace Festival in June.

What nourishes and sustains us are the connections and conversations with the incredible people who make up the ecosystem. We are proud to support them in making meaningful connections, sharing insights and collaborating towards a better world. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our employees, community members, partners and volunteers for their commitment and involvement. Together, we can continue to pursue our mission and make a positive contribution to a peaceful and just world.

**Paul Doop**
Chair of Supervisory Board

**Jill Wilkinson**
Managing Director

# 2

# History, Mission, Vision & Timeline

## 2018-2024

## Our History

Since 2018, The Hague Humanity Hub has played an important role in fostering connections, facilitating substantive dialogue, and creating opportunities for collaboration within the peace and justice community of The Hague. Established by **the Municipality of The Hague**, the Humanity Hub began with thoughtful design of its physical space, along with the foundation of an independent, not-for-profit legal entity. The Municipality provided significant support, including donation of resources for the interior and a five-year operational subsidy. In collaboration with the peace and justice community and municipal partners, the Hub has evolved into a vibrant platform for connection and collaboration, offering a diverse portfolio of programmes, activities and services. Over the past seven years, the Hub has hosted hundreds of events, accommodated numerous organisations, and established itself as the central connection point for the peace and justice community.

**Our Vision** is a world where all stakeholders can contribute to a more peaceful and just world and connect, share knowledge and collaborate from different perspectives in doing so.

**Our Mission** is to empower changemakers to connect and collaborate to address complex challenges and create a more peaceful and just world.

## Today, The Hague Humanity Hub offers an open and inclusive platform for changemakers to connect both locally and internationally, building bridges across themes, sectors and disciplines.

We foster collective action on critical challenges by convening relevant actors, facilitating dialogue, and knowledge exchange and supporting collaboration to spark innovation.

We strengthen the ecosystem by mobilising people and resources, building relationships, enabling knowledge exchange, and empowering the next generation of changemakers. We support talent-employer connections, promote The Hague's international profile and complement existing networks and membership organisations by offering access to broader perspectives and a more diverse range of actors.

Working with the community, we build awareness and understanding of peace and justice efforts through events and campaigns. Our **2000m² campus** in the centre of The Hague serves as a welcoming home for the community, offering a café/clubhouse, co-working spaces, private offices and event space.

# Timeline & Highlights
(2018-2024)

## 2024 — Focused Model, Broader Reach

The Hub formalises a new programming model around impact areas like **Climate Justice, Digitalisation,** and **Talent**, and strengthening themes such as connection, engagement, and funding. Focus areas are re-aligned to emphasise **Collective Action, Ecosystem Strengthening, Public Engagement, and the Community Space.**

**185** **Organisations**

**423** **Members**

## 2023 — Strategic Consolidation

A **Programming Advisory Board of 9 members** is launched. Ecosystem programming expands with **Peace & Justice Cafés, Democracy Drinks,** and **Fireside Peace Chats,** and new pilots address **Climate Equity and Humanitarian Innovation.**

## 2022 — Recovery & Multi-Year Footing

Events and meetings return as the Hub signs a multi-year framework with the Municipality. The community grows to 308 members from **120 organisations**, and the Hub supports the **Dutch MFA's Ukraine Accountability Conference** pre-event.

## 2021 — Public engagement mandate

The Hub begins coordinating the **Just Peace platform** as a year-round initiative and launches the first **Peace & Justice Career Event**, planting the seeds for the **Talent for Good programme.**

## 2020 — Keeping the Lights On

During the COVID period, programmes move online while the campus stays available for office use so work can continue (documented as a major operational shift in subsequent reports).

## 2018–19 — Community Takes Shape

The Hub opens its doors on **1 January 2018**, followed by a Grand Opening on **15 March 2018**. The first members move in, early events take place, and a Community Programming Board is established to guide activities. Membership passes **200 individuals** across **85 organisations.**

# 3 ECOSYSTEM

The Hague, the International City of Peace and Justice, is home to a uniquely rich ecosystem of organisations and individuals committed to addressing global challenges. This legacy began with the first international peace conference in 1899 and has since evolved to include the Peace Palace, international courts, and many other institutions dedicated to international law, peacebuilding, human rights, governance, climate justice, and more.

Today, tens of thousands of dedicated professionals contribute to this mission. Working across NGOs, international organisations, government bodies, academic institutions, social enterprises, corporations, and diplomatic circles--alongside activists, artists, and advocates--these changemakers form a vibrant, interconnected community with global reach.

This community connects local action with global policy and extends far beyond the city's borders through partnerships and networks around the Netherlands, Europe, and the world. Together, these actors make The Hague not only a centre of international institutions but a living laboratory where collaboration, innovation, and justice are continuously shaped.

## We call this dynamic ecosystem the Community of The Hague.

The Hague Humanity Hub exists to support and strengthen this community by fostering connection and collective impact. We believe this ecosystem holds immense potential to co-create innovative responses to the world's most pressing issues. We invite all changemakers to join us in shaping a more peaceful and just future.

# Ecosystem at a Glance

**1366** organisations mapped

**60%** **Cross-sector Collaboration** of organisations operate across multiple SDGs or thematic areas

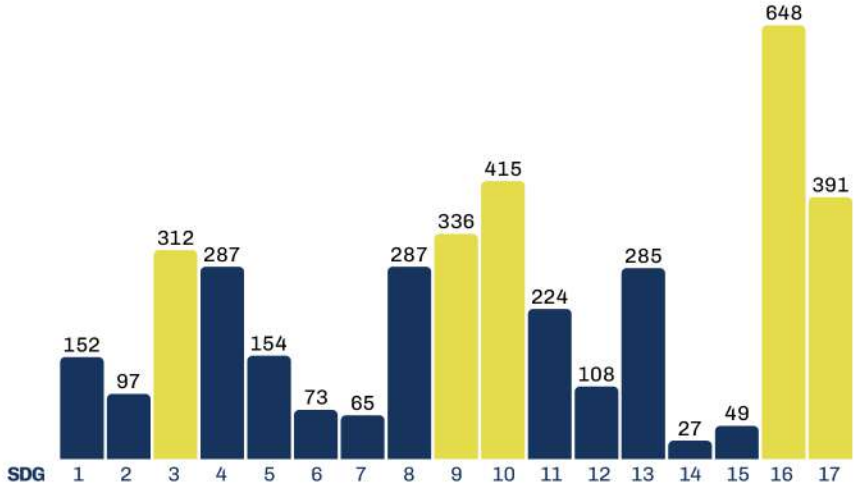
Active in **80+** countries with partnerships and impact that extend worldwide

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Top 5 Fields of Work** | Human Rights & Social Justice | Democracy, Governance & Rule of Law | Technology & Innovation for Social Change | Economic Development | Environmental Action & Climate Action |
| **Top 5 Types of Organisations** | Civil Society Organisations (NGOs, CSOs, INGOs) | Educational Institutions | Networks, Alliances & Hubs | Professional Service Providers | Research & Policy Institutes |

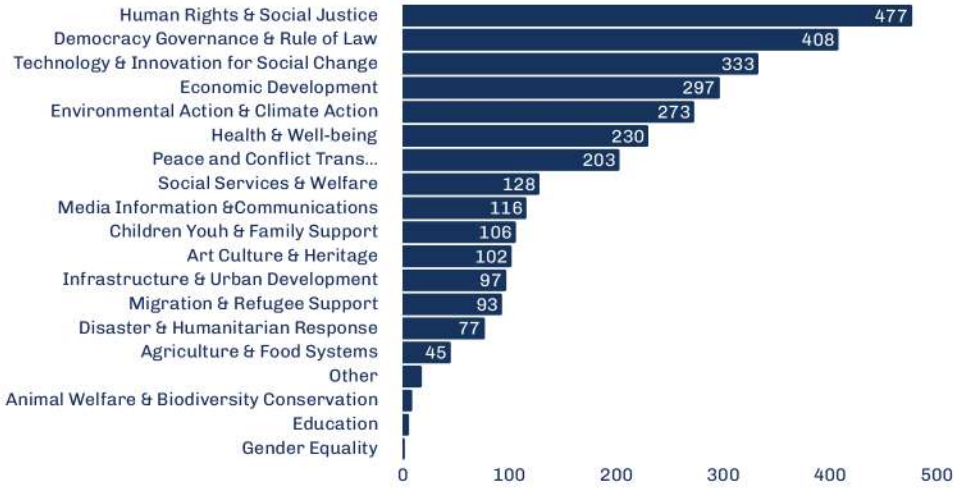
## Top 5 SDG Focus Areas

## Distribution Across UN SDGs

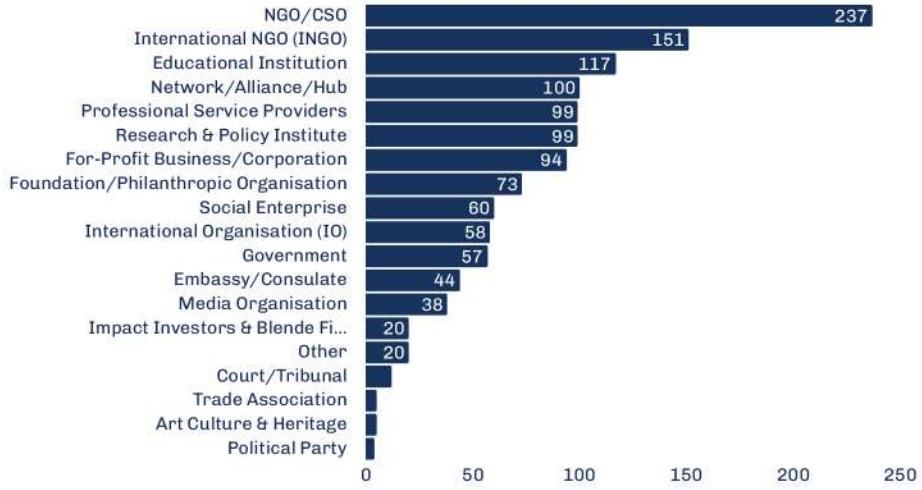
(September 2025)




## Fields of Work of Organisations in the Ecosystem of The Hague




## Types of Organisations in the Ecosystems of The Hague



# Hub Membership

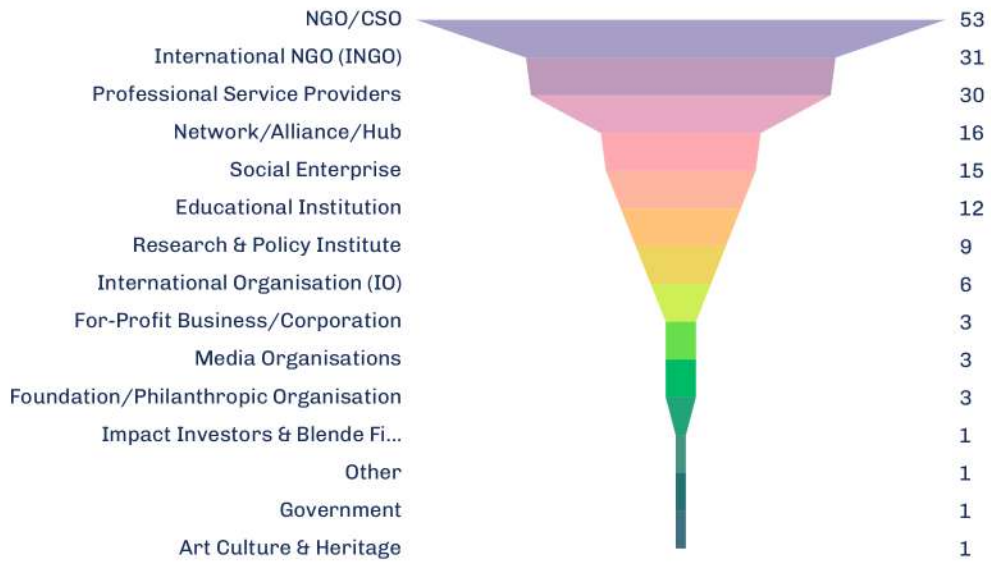
Membership at the Humanity Hub offers changemakers and organisations in The Hague's peace and justice ecosystem access to space, tailored matchmaking, visibility, and collaboration opportunities that help them grow their impact.

**185** **Member Organisations (+20% from 2023)**

**429** **Individual Members**

(diverse mix of NGOs, international bodies, academic institutions, social enterprises, and service providers)

## Fields of Work of Organisations in the Ecosystem of The Hague



# 4

# OUR WORK & IMPACT

Amid growing global challenges, The Hague Humanity Hub acted as a connector and catalyst for the city's peace and justice community. Through its programmes and community space, the Hub brought together hundreds of organisations, created opportunities for collaboration and learning, and helped reinforce The Hague's profile as a global centre for peace and justice. By linking professionals, institutions, and citizens, the Hub turned shared ideals into joint action, helping the ecosystem collaborate more effectively, form new partnerships, and strengthen its public presence and resilience.

## 2024 in Numbers

**350**
Organisations Engaged

**79,000**
Online Reach (Hub + Just Peace)

**2400**
Connections Brokered

**30,000**
Visitors Hosted at the Hub

# Ecosystem Strengthening

Making connections and building capacity and resilience across the peace and justice community.

**2400**
direct connections brokered by the Hub team

**91**
Hub Organised Events

**4,515**
Participants

**49,000**
Website Visitors

**36,300**
Followers & Subscribers

In 2024, The Hague Humanity Hub continued to strengthen the peace and justice ecosystem through a combination of targeted capacity-building programmes and opportunities for connection and dialogue. Acting as a neutral platform, the Hub connected professionals and supported the resilience of the ecosystem.

Throughout the year, the Humanity Hub team brokered an estimated **2,400 direct connections** within the ecosystem, while **91 Hub-organised events** involving **4,515 participants** enabled many more informal exchanges. Regular gatherings such as the Peace & Justice Reception and Community Drinks helped create and sustain relationships across sectors and disciplines, while thematic sessions created opportunities for deeper reflection on key global and cross-sectoral challenges.

Among these were initiatives such as the Democracy Drinks series, co-hosted with The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) and the Netherlands Helsinki Committee, which explored themes including investing in women as a foundation for democratic resilience. Another such initiative was the Fireside Peace Chats with Leiden University College and the Knowledge Platform Security and Rule of Law (KPSRL), which connected peacebuilding practitioners from conflict-affected regions with researchers and policymakers.

The Hub continued to grow and support its membership community, helping new organisations get established and connect with peers. By welcoming international visitors, engaging diverse partners in its programming, and amplifying the work of The Hague-based organisations, the Hub strengthened cooperation within the local peace and justice community and contributed to The Hague's standing as an open and connected city for peace and justice.

# TALENT FOR GOOD

In 2024, more than **1,200 participants** from **80 organisations** expanded their skills, grew their networks, and explored purpose-driven careers in peace and justice through eight Talent for Good events. This was achieved through the annual Talent for Good Fair Handshake sessions that connect aspiring changemakers with seasoned professionals, and the EmpowerSDGs training cycle, delivered in partnership with nine institutions including The Hague University of Applied Sciences. Together, these activities strengthened the talent pipeline for The Hague's peace and justice ecosystem.

## Cyber Resilience for NGOs

**Over 150 professionals** from **40 organisations** improved their cybersecurity awareness and capacity, and local NGO digital safety support was significantly strengthened in 2024. This was made possible by two complementary initiatives coordinated with the CyberPeace Institute: Cyber Resilience for NGOs (funded by the Dutch Digital Trust Centre) and Cyber Secure The Hague (delivered with municipal partners). The Hub hosted workshops, awareness sessions, and simulations—including a tabletop crisis exercise and a briefing on AI and security—which informed policy recommendations and helped establish the CyberPeace Institute's office in The Hague.

## Access to Funding

Financial resilience and donor-engagement skills across the peace and justice ecosystem were strengthened, with **over 145 participants** from **60 organisations** making new professional connections. These results stemmed from the Access to Funding programme, run with HVFC International and developed through community consultation. The programme featured 21 activities—including walk-in clinics, information sessions, Lunch & Learn events, and trainings—strengthening fundraising capacity and supporting the long-term sustainability of organisations in the ecosystem.

# Collective Action

In 2024, The Hague Humanity Hub started to develop collective action as a framework to support dialogue and collaboration on shared challenges across disciplines and sectors.

The year focused on testing this framework on climate justice, while also facilitating collaboration and dialogue on visual advocacy, the conflict in Gaza, and mental health. These efforts brought together **over 30 partner organisations** through **16 activities,** engaging nearly 900 participants from more than **100 organisations**. The Hub also engaged in exploratory conversations on other potential areas for collective action such as global governance, democracy and rule of law, and conflict resolution in the Netherlands.

**Mobilising collaboration around shared challenges to increase collective impact.**

**Climate Justice**
established as the Hub's first collective action initiative

**18**
collective action events organised

**32**
partner organisations

**1,100**
professionals engaged from 100 organisations

# Climate Justice

In 2024, the Hub launched its first collective action initiative focused on the intersection of climate, peace, and justice, following a joint Climate Deal submitted under the Hague Climate Agreement. Activities included community meetups, networking events, and joint sessions during The Hague Climate Week and Impact Fest. An example is the roundtable on the role of law enforcement in climate action, organised in partnership with the Hague Roundtable on Climate and Security and The Hague University of Applied Sciences. During the course of the year, **16 events engaged nearly 900 participants** from **100+ organisations**, strengthening connections on climate justice and laying the foundation for a broad-based community for climate justice.

## Gaza Unfolding

As part of convening the ecosystem for critical dialogue, the Hub (together with PAX and Impunity Watch) supported a community-led initiative to organise two Gaza Unfolding sessions in December 2023 and January 2024. Bringing together **over 200 professionals**, the sessions responded to the rapidly escalating crisis in Gaza, creating space to reflect, exchange perspectives, and consider collective action. UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in the Palestinian territories, Francesca Albanese, as well as other experts, took part. The sessions examined the mounting humanitarian catastrophe and the legal implications of the conflict amid rapidly increasing concerns regarding crimes against humanity and genocide.

## Visual Advocacy

In 2024, the Hub supported the emergence of the Visual Advocacy Collective, a group of communicators, designers, and human-rights advocates exploring how creative storytelling can strengthen peace and justice work. The group met regularly to exchange experiences and collaborate on the ethics involved in visual communication. A highlight was a joint event on ethical storytelling, co-organised with community members and creative partners in The Hague. The event, part of the Movies that Matter Festival's programme for those working in the industry, explored the potential of using visual media to make justice issues more accessible and impactful.

# Public Engagement

In 2024, The Hague Humanity Hub strengthened public awareness and engagement with peace and justice by helping the community reach broader audiences through storytelling, campaigns, and public events. As coordinator of the Just Peace platform, the Hub worked with over 100 contributors to foster connections and keep these themes visible on the public agenda throughout the year.

There were eight thematic campaigns on issues such as climate, women's rights, human rights, and refugees, featuring interviews, partner events, and stories highlighting the people and organisations driving change. The platform's reach expanded to over 30,000 website visitors and 15,000 social media followers and newsletter subscribers.

A key focus was the 125th anniversary of The Hague as the International City of Peace and Justice, which united cultural, legal, and civic institutions under a shared narrative of reflection and renewal. Through this and other initiatives, the Hub helped the community to engage the public more effectively bridging institutions and citizens through accessible storytelling, creative collaboration, and shared celebration of peace and justice in action.

**Inspiring broader public understanding and connection to peace and justice**

**100**
active contributing organisations

**11**
Hub produced events engaging **915** participants

**220**
events by contributors reaching **10k** Hague citizens

**30k**
website visitors

**15k**
followers and subscribers

## Just Peace Open Day

In 2024, more than **1,200 participants** from **80 organisations** expanded their skills, grew their networks, and explored purpose-driven careers in peace and justice through eight Talent for Good events. This was achieved through the annual Talent for Good Fair Handshake sessions that connect aspiring changemakers with seasoned professionals, and the EmpowerSDGs training cycle, delivered in partnership with nine institutions including The Hague University of Applied Sciences. Together, these activities strengthened the talent pipeline for The Hague's peace and justice ecosystem.

JUST PEACE.

## Just Peace Movie Nights

In collaboration with **11 partners**, the Hub organised eight Just Peace Movie Nights attended by 570 participants. Screenings were followed by panel discussions with experts from organisations such as Leiden University, PAX, and Hivos, giving local audiences a close-up look at issues of global justice. A highlight was a special edition at the Peace Palace, featuring an exclusive preview of a documentary on youth activists from the Pacific Islands advocating for climate justice at the International Court of Justice. The documentary illustrates the power of storytelling and legal action in advancing global change.

## Hague Talks on Anti-Corruption

In partnership with III Europe and Justice & Peace, the Hub organised a Hague Talks event exploring how corruption affects societies at every level, from the quality of public services to trust in institutions and participation in democracy. Bringing together speakers from law, journalism, and governance, the event shed light on the global movement calling for stronger accountability, including proposals for an International Anti-Corruption Court. It inspired participants to see integrity and transparency not only as policy goals but as everyday practices essential to building more just and resilient societies.

# Community Collaboration Space

*Creating a home for collaboration, connection, and community in the heart of The Hague*

**1,666**
meetings and events hosted at the Hub with an estimated **20k attendees.**

**+30k**
visitors to the Hub

**29,760**
cups of coffee served

Central to the Humanity Hub's mission is its physical home in the centre of The Hague, a place where the peace and justice community can meet, work, and collaborate. In 2024, the Hub's campus on Fluwelen Burgwal continued to serve as a vibrant meeting point for professionals from across the ecosystem. It offered the infrastructure, atmosphere, and hospitality that allow collaboration to happen naturally, whether through planned gatherings or conversations over coffee.

In 2024, the Humanity Hub hosted **179 peace and justice related events** with more than **7,000 participants**. Between events organised by members of the community, Hub organised events, and external bookings there were a total of **1,666 meetings and events**, welcoming an **estimated 20,000 participants**. **Sixty organisations called the Hub their home**, making use of the eight private offices and 66 coworking spaces, while many others used the clubhouse for short work sprints, networking, and reflection. The Hub Café, open five days a week, remained the social heart of the community — a space where partnerships often begin informally, where international visitors first connect with The Hague's network, and where countless insights and ideas are exchanged across tables. More than just a workplace, the Hub's campus embodies the collaborative spirit of The Hague. It is where global actors meet local innovators, where new partnerships first take shape, and where the city's peace and justice ecosystem truly comes to life. **Below are a few examples of activities at The Hague Humanity Hub campus.**

## Highlights

Urban Reconstruction and Agricultural Recovery of Ukraine during War and Peace – **Event by The Halo Trust**

Celebration of the 70th anniversary of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict – **Event by Cultural Emergency Response**

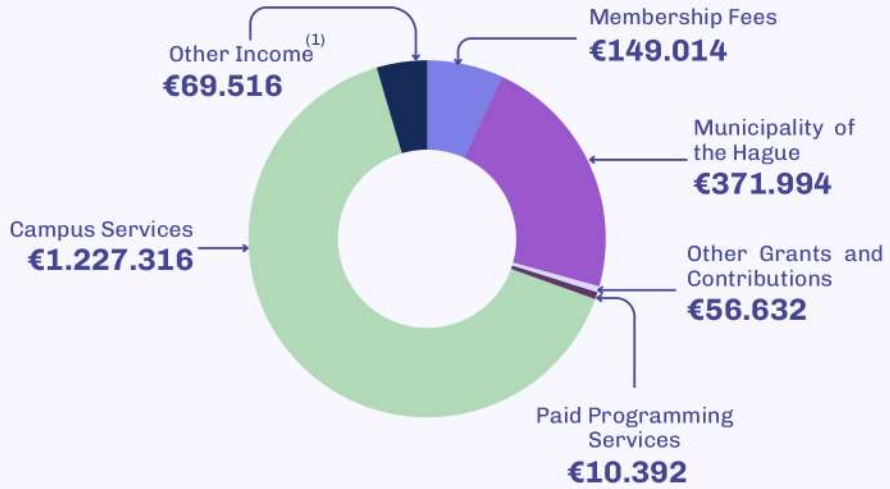
Corporate Responsibility: Supporting Child Labour Free Zones through Investment and Fair Pricing – **Event by Global March Against Child Labour**

# 5

# FINANCIAL REPORT

# Income & Expenses (2023)

**Total Income** **€1.632.960**




**€1.559.576** **Total Expenses**

## Funds Available for Reinvestment

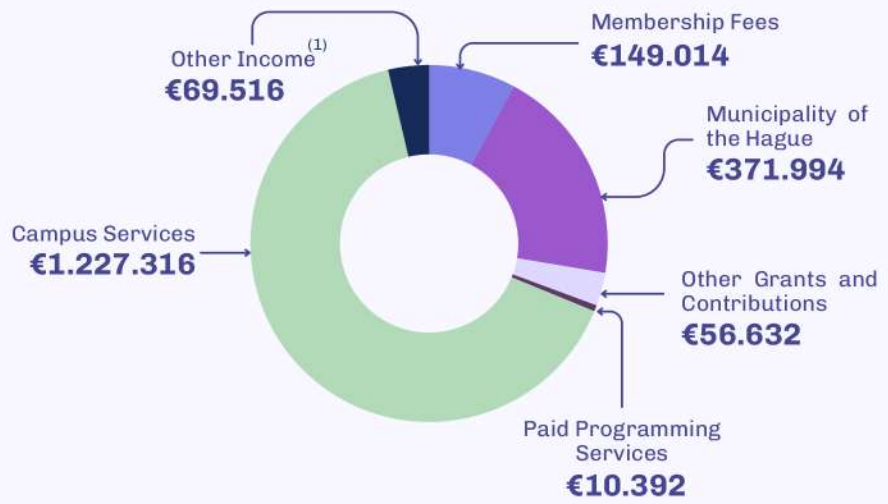
**€73.384**

**These funds will be added to the general reserves.**

(1) This income is from interest on savings and the revaluation reservation of fixed assets given to the Hub by the Municipality of The Hague in 2017. This is released to income and is equal to the depreciation of the assets in question.

# Income & Expenses (2024)

**Total Income** **€1.884.863**




**€1.772.774** **Total Expenses**

## Funds Available for Reinvestment

**€112.089**

**These funds will be added to the general reserves.**

(1) This income is from interest on savings and the revaluation reservation of fixed assets given to the Hub by the Municipality of The Hague in 2017. This is released to income and is equal to the depreciation of the assets in question.
(2) Pending assessment by the tax authorities.

# **Balance Sheet** (as of 31 December 2024)

| ASSSETS | 2024 (€) | 2023 (€) |
|---|---|---|
| **Cash and Cash equivalents** | 900.344 | 799.675 |
| **Fixed assets** | 302.801 | 319.257 |
| **Financial Assets** | 107.400 | 107.400 |
| **Current Assets** | | |
| • Accounts Receivables | 180.843 | 196.680 |
| • Accrued Assets | 114.705 | 257.347 |
| **Other Current assets** | 8.816 | 3.410 |
| **TOTAL ASSETS** | **1.696.884** | **1.601.794** |

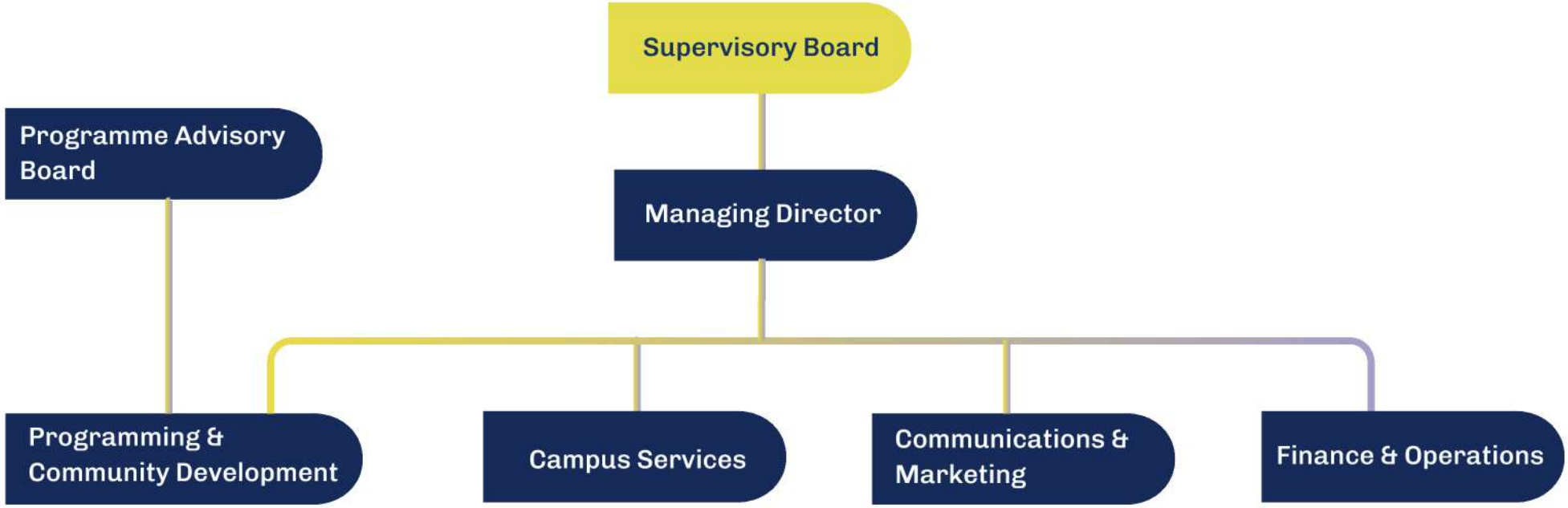
| LIABILITIES | 2024 (€) | 2023 (€) |
|---|---|---|
| **Reserves and Funds** | | |
| • General reserves | 347.277 | 265.301 |
| • Special-purpose reserve - recovery costs of building | 137.513 | 107.400 |
| • Revaluation reserve | 15.440 | 20.587 |
| **Provision for Possible Tax Claim*** | 22.352 | |
| **Non-current liabilities** | 146.100 | 107.400 |
| **Current liabilities** | | |
| • Accounts payables | 226.083 | 229.501 |
| • Other taxes and social security contributions | 105.515 | 22.075 |
| **Accrued liabilities** | | |
| • Pre-received rent reduction | 331.478 | 414.346 |
| • Pre-invoiced revenue | 198.968 | 55.433 |
| • Deposits received | 91.968 | 74.490 |
| • Other accrued liabilities | 73.754 | 113.905 |
| **Other payables (incl. Grants received in advance)** | 436 | 112.020 |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES** | **1.696.884** | **1.601.794** |

*Pending assessment by the tax authorities

# 6

# GOVERNANCE & ORGANISATION

## Organizational Chart



# Supervisory Board Members

The supervisory board of The Hague Humanity Hub monitors the executive board (director) of the foundation, providing advice and assistance in realising the foundation's objectives.

More specifically, the supervisory board has the following main tasks:

- **Ensures the proper functioning of the management and performs the role of employer (appointment, assessment, and dismissal of the management)**
- **Ensures the proper functioning of internal supervision**
- **Advises the executive board**
- **Supervises the policy pursued by the executive board and the general course of events within the foundation; approves proposed policy and strategic decisions by the executive board**

**Paul Doop (Chair)**
Executive board member, NPO
Supervisory Board Member, Technische Universiteit Eindhoven
Supervisory Board Member, Anne Frank Stichting
Board Member in Extraordinary Service, Algemene Rakenkamer
**Appointed Dec 22nd, 2017 on recommendation of the Municipality of The Hague**

**Juultje van der Wijk (Audit)**
Director, Rabobank Hollandse IJssel & Member of the Board of Advisors, Brightlands Chemelot Campus
**Appointed May 1st, 2021**

**Chizu Matsushita**
Professional Coach & Facilitator, Synergy Facilitation & Lecturer at THUAS
**Appointed Sep 1st, 2023.**

**Thea Hilhorst**
Professor of Humanitarian Studies, International Institute for Social Studies
**Appointed Jun 1st, 2019 on recommendation of the Municipality of the Hague**

**Tomás Andres Kidd**
Partner, Upsocial
**Appointed Sep 1st, 2023.**

The board meets four times a year, plus one or two thematic meetings. The board has two committees: remuneration and audit. Given the international composition of the supervisory board, the working language is English. The members of the supervisory board receive a modest meeting remuneration and travel expense allowance.

# Programming Advisory Board Members (24-25)

The Programming Advisory Board (PAB) supports the development of the Hub towards its mission and ensures that programming remains valuable to both the community and the wider public. Composed of professionals from diverse sectors of The Hague's peace and justice ecosystem, the PAB provides strategic advice to the Hub team, helps identify themes and opportunities for collaboration, and cultivates a sense of collective ownership in strengthening and connecting the community.

**Simon Tiller (Chair)**
Director
**HALO Trust Europe**

**Wim Jansen**
Strategic Advisor
**International Affairs, The City of The Hague**

**Jill Wilkinson**
Managing Director,
**The Hague Humanity Hub**

**Zoey Breslar**
Founder,
**Zoey Breslar Consulting**

**Gerrit-Jan't Veen**
Fellow,
**We Are Changemakers**

**Stéphane Duguin**
CEO,
**Cyber Peace Institute**

**Nadia Castillo-Sanchéz**
Founder,
**Climate Legal Consulting**

**Serge Santoo**
Director & Senior Advisor,
**Polycentric Solutions**

**Maaike Dloor**
Strategic Advisor
**Centre of Expertise on Global and Inclusive Learning, THUAS**

**Nadja Houben**
Co-founder & Director,
**Human Rights in the Picture**

**Jan-Aart Scholte**
Chair,
**Global Transformations & Governance Challenges (GTGC), Leiden University**

The Hague Humanity Hub

# Leadership Team

The Leadership Team oversees the Hub's strategy, programmes, and operations, guiding its daily work.

**Alexandre Taillandier**
Head of Programmes & Community

**Jill Wilkinson**
Managing Director

**Giovanni Puttin**
Communications & Marketing Manager

**Julia Boot**
Finance & Operations Manager

The Hague Humanity Hub

# 7 Sucess Stories

## UN OCHA x The Hub Story

In December 2017, in the early days of the Humanity Hub, UN Secretary-General António Guterres opened the Centre for Humanitarian Data under the Hub's roof-- a milestone for both the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and The Hague's growing humanitarian ecosystem . Building on this success, OCHA later established a full-fledged office in The Hague, decentralising several headquarters functions, including Digital Services, Strategic Communications, and Donor Relations.

"*The Hague Humanity Hub has been a fantastic home for OCHA since we first arrived in The Hague in 2017. We love being part of a diverse, globally engaged community in an environment that supports collaboration and innovation,*" says Sarah Telford, Head of the UN OCHA Office The Hague.

Unlike traditional UN offices, OCHA's presence in the Humanity Hub has fostered openness and cross-sector collaboration. Its presence in The Hague gives the organisation strategic proximity to key partners such as the Dutch Red Cross, Dutch Relief Alliance, the KUNO network, and Mercy Corps, while enabling direct engagement with civil society, academia, and other international institutions. Partnerships with organisations such as Leiden University and Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica (CWI) exemplify this collaborative approach, alongside talented hires from fellow Hub member organisations.

The Hub's setting has also made it easy for OCHA to host and participate in meetings and workshops that bring together actors from across the humanitarian ecosystem. The Hub's location and network regularly connect OCHA with visiting delegations and study groups through meet-and-greets, tours, and briefings, reinforcing UN OCHA's The Hague's role as a visible and active part of OCHA's global network. This engagement has led to major events such as the Humanitarian Data Forum 2024, marking ten years of the HDX platform, as well as the OCHA Donor Support Group Meeting and the Qatar Humanitarian Leadership and Innovation Programme. As crises grow increasingly complex, the ability to connect and innovate from within a vibrant ecosystem like the Hague has never been more vital. From its base at the Humanity Hub, UN OCHA's teams in The Hague are helping advance a more data-driven, innovative and collaborative humanitarian system.

# The HALO Trust x The Hub

In 2018, The Halo Trust joined The Hague Humanity Hub with a single employee. Today, it has grown into a thriving team of 11 headquarters staff, establishing a strong European base and enabling HALO to recruit talent from across the European Union. Here and beyond The Hague, HALO is leading the effort to protect the lives and restore the livelihoods of those affected by conflict.

## Strategic Foothold in Europe

Locating its European Headquarters in The Hague has given HALO proximity to donor countries, EU and NATO policymakers, as well as a supportive network of like-minded organisations. The Humanity Hub has served as a gateway into this ecosystem, offering HALO visibility, legitimacy, and access to strategic partnerships that amplify its work in conflict-affected regions.

> *The HALO Trust has always seen its European identity as rooted geographically in The Hague and in the Humanity Hub community. We benefit from the support we receive from the city of The Hague, and from all of the organisations that are present in the peace and justice ecosystem.*
>
> **Simon Tiller,**
> **Head of HALO Europe**

## Collaboration for Change

HALO's presence at the Hub has sparked meaningful collaborations. A standout example is its partnership with fellow Hub member Space4Good, leveraging Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to identify environmental risks in contaminated areas in eastern Ukraine. This work has directly supported the Ukrainian Fire Service, enabling safer responses to forest fires in conflict zones. Space4Good previously worked with HALO on an analysis of long-term environmental recovery following rural demining in the Horn of Africa.

HALO has also teamed up with International Alert to develop a conflict sensitivity training course tailored for the Humanitarian Mine Action sector. This initiative blends HALO's operational expertise with International Alert's technical insight, advancing best practices not just at HALO but across the ecosystem.

Beyond the Hague, HALO has built bridges with Mercy Corps teams in Yemen, Myanmar, and Somalia, sharing information and jointly pursuing funding opportunities to enhance humanitarian impact.

Simon continues: "***There is an old adage that says: If you want to travel fast, go alone; if you want to travel far, go together. With cuts to budgets and increasing pressure on non-governmental organisations to deliver more with less, it is essential to create coalitions. The Hub provides the perfect environment to pull together a travelling party whose collective skills can provide a wider response to conflict.***"

## Talent, Community and Engagement

HALO's growth has been supported by recruitment efforts from local universities. Three junior staff members joined the team directly after graduating from universities in and around The Hague, reflecting the Hub's role as a connector between academia and humanitarian practice, and offering employment opportunities to young graduates. Finally, the HALO Trust is an active member of the Hub, participating in initiatives such as the Just Peace Open Days, the Talent for Good fair, and serving on the Hub's Programming Advisory Board. These engagements strengthen HALO's ties within the community and reinforce its commitment to collective action.

## THUAS x The Hub

The story of collaboration between The Hague University of Applied Sciences (THUAS) and The Hague Humanity Hub began in 2021, with a shared belief that young people could--and should--be part of shaping a more peaceful and just world. That year, THUAS was integral in helping launch the first Talent for Good Career Fair.

Ever since, thousands of students and young professionals have gathered each year in THUAS' atrium to meet over 100 organisations working on today's most pressing global and societal challenges. More than just a career fair, the Hub's Talent for Good programme has become a gateway--opening paths into The Hague's vibrant and diverse ecosystem of peace and justice for students and staff, and strengthening the connections between academia, civil society, and international organisations.

Collaboration between THUAS and the Hub has continued to grow over the years. 2023 saw the delivery of the Empower SDGs programme, a five-week journey coordinated by Dr. Sylvia Bergh and Dr. Ashley Richard Longman designed to equip 20 aspiring changemakers with leadership skills and community connections. Co-created by the Hub and researchers at THUAS (and supported by a joint municipal grant), the programme blended THUAS' applied research expertise with the Hub's thriving network to bring theory to life.

"***The Hub's involvement effectively bridged the gap between our academic learning and real-world application***," shared one participant. "***It provided a tangible connection to the professional world we aspire to enter.***"

In 2024, another collaboration emerged with a high-level roundtable on the intersection of climate and law enforcement, co-organised by The Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security, THUAS and the Hub. As acts of climate-related civil disobedience--such as Extinction Rebellion's blockade of The Hague's A12 highway--become more visible and frequent , more than 50 professionals and students gathered to explore how climate change affects modern policing. The roundtable successfully brought students together with diverse professions and viewpoints to discuss the role of police in responding to climate-related challenges - a topic that proved again to be sensitive, polarising, and emotionally charged. The roundtable has since been cited by Dr. Anna Matczak in her book Adapting to Climate Change in Modern Policing: The Rise of the Eco-Cop–underscoring the value of cross-community dialogue and collaboration.

Today, the partnership between THUAS and the Humanity Hub continues to thrive. THUAS researchers and staff contribute to Hub projects, including the newly created Democracy and Rule of Law Collective, while THUAS students are engaged with the Hub's events and often participate in the Hub's internship programme. THUAS staff such as Chizu Matsushita and Maaike de Loor also sit on the Hub's Supervisory Board and Programming Advisory Board, respectively. Rather than a single project, the collaboration has become a lasting bridge between knowledge and impact.

## Asymmetrical Haircuts

Since launching their podcast Asymmetrical Haircuts in 2019, Janet Anderson and co-host Stephanie van den Berg have made the Hub an integral part of their creative rhythm. "***We're both members, so it's a convenient and welcoming place to meet--but it's also where we regularly bump into people from our world. Those spontaneous chats often spark new ideas or stories,***" Janet explains.

The podcast is known for sharp, accessible analysis of major developments at The Hague's courts and tribunals. When The Gambia announced its ICJ genocide case against Myanmar at a press conference at the Hub in November 2019, Asymmetrical Haircuts was present and released a timely interview episode. This kind of responsiveness, combined with their direct access to key actors, has made the podcast a reliable go-to in the community.

Above all, Asymmetrical Haircuts brings a distinctive focus: amplifying female voices in international justice. "***That's our USP,***" says Janet. "***We wanted to broaden the conversation. When we started, there was a small circle of go-to commentators--now we've built connections with women working across the whole field.***"

That commitment to inclusion has been reflected in several live events co-hosted with the Hub. From discussions on gender inequality in international institutions, to conversations on investigating mass graves with the International Commission on Missing Persons and Amnesty International, to the 2024 event marking 125 years of The Hague as a centre for international justice, each collaboration has helped bring fresh and diverse perspectives into public dialogue. In 2022, Asymmetrical Haircuts and the Hub also teamed up with UN Women to produce Holosy – Voices on Gender in Ukraine, a special podcast series that highlighted women's experiences and leadership amid conflict.

Beyond the conversations it amplifies, the podcast has also become a launchpad for emerging talent. Young journalists and Hub interns have joined the team over the years, learning the craft of production and editing before moving on to new opportunities across the international justice and media landscape. "We like the flexibility," Janet says.

*The Hub makes it possible for us to record, collaborate, and grow. That's why it always gets a special shout-out at the end of every episode - because we know the Hub supports us.*

**Asymmetrical Haircuts**

Today, Asymmetrical Haircuts and The Hague Humanity Hub demonstrate how collaboration across sectors--from media and civil society to international institutions--can strengthen the peace and justice ecosystem. Together, they show the power of connection to amplify voices, spark dialogue, and inspire change

# Upinion x THHH

Since joining the Hague Humanity Hub in October 2021, the story of Upinion and The Hub has been one of growth, flexibility, and the kinds of impactful collaborations which happen between members at the Humanity Hub.

A standout example of this collaboration is Upinion's ongoing partnership with fellow Hub member Mercy Corps. Their work together began in 2021, when Mercy Corps' Crisis Analytics team commissioned Upinion to gather insights on COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy across three countries in the Sahel region: Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger. Leveraging its unique, participatory online methodology, Upinion conducted a wide-reaching study that engaged diverse groups of respondents. The findings provided Mercy Corps with valuable, ground-level perspectives on community perceptions and preferences around COVID-19 immunisation--directly informing programme design and outreach strategies.

Beyond project partnerships, Upinion has also expanded its presence within the peace and justice community of The Hague through the Humanity Hub. Through the sharing of opportunities such as the Direct Line to Gaza Volunteerrole on Hub communication channels, Upinion has been able to connect with a wider network of professionals and allies who share their mission. This is what the Humanity Hub does best - connecting people and ideas to make real change for communities around the world.

> *Being rooted in The Hague's ecosystem amplifies our mission. Our proximity to global thought leaders and institutions has effectively brought our primary stakeholders - the affected communities - closer to the global decision-making table.*

**Noor Lekkerkerker**
**CEO, Upinion**

# 8 Acknowledgments

# Funding Partners

Den Haag

Netherlands Enterprise Agency

# Main Partners

CyberPeace Institute

Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy

Netherlands Helsinki Committee

Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law

HPM

HVFC
Fundraising • Impact • Talent

ImpactCity The Hague

KARSTEN & KUIPER
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Den Haag

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THE HAGUE UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

SPREEEK
Den Haag in Debat

The Hague international centre

The Hague. & Partners

SDG Nederland

# Members (2024)

(de) Lokale
A&O Fonds
Acessiball (formerly Center for Access to Football in Europe)
Acronyms
Action for Peace and Liberty
Advocacy Unified Network
African Diaspora Policy Centre
Arab-West Foundation (AWF)
ART WORKS Projects
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GIRES (Global Institute for Research,Education & Scholarship)
Global Accreditation Council
Global Degree Foundation
Global Governance Forum
Global March Against Child Labour
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Turkmen Rescue Foundation
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UN High Commissioner for Refugees
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Waterbear Network
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What If Socio-technical Systems Modeling Lab
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White Helmets Foundation
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World Geospatial Industry Council (WGIC)
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Young Diplomat
Youth Peace Initiative (YPI)
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